

Israel

“I often describe myself as a ‘Christian, a conservative and a Republican,’ in that order. Accordingly, like millions of other Americans, I am concerned with the defense and the promotion of the interests of the state and the people of Israel.”

--Congressman Mike Pence

Having traveled to Israel and experienced firsthand the daily terrorist threats Israelis face, my commitment to its support and defense has never been stronger.

To that end, I have proposed legislation in the 108th Congress (link here to Congress.gov's info on H. Con. Res. 371) in support of Israel's construction of a security fence to thwart would-be terrorist attacks. My bill further condemns the United Nations General Assembly for requesting a legal opinion on the consequences of the fence.

I see the relationship between the United States and Israel to be a unique and precious one, forged in the best values and hopes of the people of both nations. At no other time in human history have one people committed themselves so completely to the re-establishment of another people in their historic homeland as did the United States in 1948. I see our relationship with Israel as one of stewardship.

This commitment begins with foreign aid by the United States to Israel. We must continue and be willing to expand our financial commitment to the economic and military strength of Israel even if foreign aid to other nations contracts. The financial support we give to Israel is a bargain for the promotion of the interest of a people so cherished by millions of Americans, leaving aside entirely that Israel remains the only democratic nation in this strategically significant region of the world.

This commitment also extends to the protection of the physical integrity of the historic boundaries of Israel. I believe that Jerusalem is, and must always remain, the eternal undivided capital of Israel. I support the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act, which clearly states that sentiment as a tenet of U.S. foreign policy and also that the U.S. should move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. As a member of the House International Relations Committee, I will be a vocal critic of any effort to compromise the physical integrity of Israel or of Jerusalem in particular.

The United States must be a supportive partner with Israel in promoting the Middle East Peace Process but must be guided by its fealty first to the interests of Israel. I am committed to the goal of fully implementing the Wye River Memorandum between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

I would not support the creation of a separate Palestinian State unless and until the

democratically elected leadership of Israel became persuaded that such was truly in the best interest of Israel and her security.

In the end, The United States must refrain from exercising too great of an influence in the domestic or international decisions of the nation of Israel. We must practice self-control in allowing the people of Israel to find their own way and prosper according to America's beneficence and God's good grace.

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